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National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
10 W 15th Street, Suite 3100 · Helena, MT 59626

2011 Sweet Cherry Production, Utilization, and Value

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For more information contact: Michael Johnson or Steve Anderson at 1-800-835-2612

Montana sweet cherry producers harvested a total of 2,470 tons in 2010, 3 percent above the 2009 production of 2,390 tons, and 58 percent above the 1,560 tons produced in 2008, according to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office. Utilization of the 2010 crop totaled 2,050 tons, compared with 1,055 tons utilized in 2009 and 1,450 tons utilized in 2008. The value of production for 2010 was \$4.03 million, compared with \$1.57 million in 2009 and \$3.96 million in 2008. The average price per ton received for sweet cherries during 2010 was \$1,960, compared with \$1,490 in 2009 and \$2,730 per ton in 2008. In 2010, there were 730 bearing acres with an average yield of 3.38 tons per acre, compared with 710 bearing acres with an average yield of 3.37 tons per acre in 2009, and 710 bearing acres with an average yield of 2.20 tons per acre in 2008. There were 130 tons of unharvested production in 2010, compared with 1,200 tons unharvested in 2009 and 10 tons unharvested in 2008. In addition, there were 290 tons harvested but not sold in 2010, compared with 135 tons harvested but not sold in 2009 and 100 tons harvested but not sold in 2008.

Sweet cherry producers in the United States harvested 312,720 tons in 2010, 29 percent below the 2009 total of 442,870 tons, but 26 percent higher than the 2008 crop of 248,060 tons. Producers utilized 307,130 tons in 2010, 20 percent below the 385,625 tons utilized in 2009, but 28 percent higher than the 2008 utilized total of 240,720 tons. Value of production for the 2010 crop totaled \$721.2 million, 40 percent above the 2009 total of \$513.3 million, and 26 percent higher than the \$574.0 million in 2008. The price per ton was \$2,350 in 2010, compared with \$1,330 in 2009 and \$2,390 in 2008. In 2010, there were 88,030 bearing acres with an average yield of 3.55 tons per acre, compared with 85,310 bearing acres and an average yield per acre of 5.19 tons in 2009, and 82,610 bearing acres with an average yield of 3.00 tons per acre in 2008. There were 1,600 tons of unharvested production in 2010, compared with 51,230 tons unharvested in 2009 and 3,940 tons unharvested in 2008. In addition, there were 3,990 tons harvested but not sold in 2010, compared with 6,015 tons harvested but not sold in 2009, and 3,400 tons harvested but not sold in 2008.

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